

THE GATEWAY

volume CXVI number 41 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ tuesday, 21 march, 2006



FINGER ROLL The Alberta Northern Lights won their fourth straight National Wheelchair Basketball Association West Regional Championship on Saturday at the U of A's Main Gym. They clinched the title with a convincing 63–36 win over the LA Clippers in the final of their first home NWBA tournament in ten years.

BoG approves student proposal for U of A tuition policy

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Deputy News Editor

While a new provincial tuition policy is still under negotiation, and the University administration has already drafted its own proposal—along with the presidents from Alberta's three other universities—on Friday the Board of Governors (BoG) approved a proposal to develop a tuition policy unique to the University of Alberta.

Students' Union President Graham Lettner presented the resolution, suggesting that the BoG partner with the Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association to develop their

own joint policy.

"Currently, the University doesn't actually have a policy on tuition," Lettner said.

The idea of this type of joint policy was first adopted on 16 January, 2004, when the BoG passed a resolution stating that the administration bring "options for a three- or four-year tuition fee policy or plan" to represent the U of A's vision. However, the date set for the policy's completion passed in June 2004, and the initiative never came to fruition.

Now, in light of the university presidents' joint policy proposal, drafted by the presidents from Alberta's four

universities and sent to Minister of Advanced Education Dave Hancock, the SU and the GSA are hoping to have their voices heard too. Students have criticized "Alberta's Universities Proposed Affordability Framework," a policy suggesting that the government permanently reset tuition levels to the 2004/05 levels, and have annual increases of up to CPI plus 3.5 per cent, as nothing more than maintaining the status quo.

U of A Provost Carl Amrhein, who was instrumental in drafting the presidents' proposal, defended it as being a "wonderful" proposal, and hoped that the Board would consider it.

"I guess I'm a bit surprised at the intensity of the reaction," Amrhein said, admitting that the proposal was not meant to be made public.

"It was understood to be private advice from the presidents to the Minister," Amrhein said. "Had the minister told us that this was a public document, we would have shared it."

And though Lettner noted the difference between the proposal and the current province-wide tuition policy, which allows for tuition to account for up to 30 per cent of a university's operating budget, he noted the annual tuition increases would be similar.

PLEASE SEE TUITION • PAGE 5

University announces plans to build up Hudson's Bay

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Deputy News Editor

The historic Hudson's Bay building downtown will soon see the addition of a fourth floor after the U of A finalized the decision to expand the size of the satellite campus.

The University made the official purchase of the Bay building last September, in a \$60 million investment that was funded in part by the municipal government, who gave \$12.5 million for the project, and the provincial government, who invested \$15 million. And

after sitting vacant for more than ten years, the University is eager to fill the space as soon as possible, and renovations are well under way.

"From the standpoint of the overall institution, adding that fourth floor is a critical step at a time when we are under tremendous space pressure," University President Dr. Indira Samarasekera said.

Space shortages on campus are a continuing problem, and one that saw the University convert Pembina Hall, the only graduate student residence on campus, into office space last April.

"From the standpoint of the overall institution, adding that fourth floor is a critical step at a time when we are under tremendous space pressure."

DR. INDIRA SAMARASEKERA,
U OF A PRESIDENT

Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) Don Hickey echoed Samarasekera's concerns, saying that an entire new floor will help a great deal in the face of space issues.

"The pressures do continue; there's more hiring of faculty. I think when the government addresses student-to-faculty ratios... that's going to increase the pressures again," Hickey said.

Hickey went on to explain that the new floor will be added without any change to the foundation of the building.

PLEASE SEE BAY • PAGE 5

University establishes new faculty

School of Public Health brings a unique focus for Canadian students

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Deputy News Editor

The University of Alberta has taken a leading role in Canadian health initiatives with the establishment of the country's first faculty devoted entirely to public health.

The School of Public Health, officially created on Friday, 17 March with the unanimous approval of the U of A Board of Governors, will take a broader, interdisciplinary approach to promoting health and preventing the spread of disease.

"This is the first school of public health in the country; this is historic," said U of A President Dr. Indira Samarasekera.

Dr. Tom Marrie, dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, explained that the role of the new school is to look at health as an issue that affects the public as a whole, instead of just the individual.

"The world is really a global village of public health," Marrie said, explaining that the faculty will work to translate knowledge into policies that will benefit not only Canadians, but also the health of the extended global community that's easily afflicted by the spread of diseases.

"We have a lot of infections, like measles, mumps, et cetera, which are not controlled by vaccines, but those are public health issues. In order to keep those under control, one needs public health policy."

He pointed to SARS as a virus that doesn't respect borders, and especially with increased transportation technology to bring people across the globe in very little time, it's harder to control public health issues.

"Most of the other university faculties of medicine in Canada have either a community health department or a public health sciences department, and that serves that function for Canada," Marrie said.

He went on to explain that while the faculty will deal primarily with medical elements, there are other public health issues that aren't directly tied to science, and that the new school will be broad in its scope of studies.

"The public health program is mostly a graduate program, but what it does is open up opportunities for graduates from other programs," he said, explaining that student can cross over from other faculties like Business and Arts.

PLEASE SEE PUBLIC HEALTH • PAGE 5

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D for Discourse

V for Vendetta came out last weekend. Read about how we had to get by jackbooted security guards to get in.

A&E, PAGE 14



Oh Lawrence!

Once again, Circle has a chip on his shoulder and ... wait a second, does Circle even have shoulders?

COMICS, PAGE 23

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colophon

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Unison Powerbook 1500 flatbed scanner, and a Nikon
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images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster
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are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the
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Marathon is the Gateway's script paper. The Gateway's
games of choice are Goldeneye and Scribble.

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Clinebaugh.CAMPUS
CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Jake Troughton

THE PERVERT'S NEW CLOTHES

Campus Security received a complaint
that on 16 March at about 7am, a naked
male was spotted within the women's
change room showers at the Van Vleet
Centre. The pervy perp was confronted
by facility users and fled the area. He is
described as Caucasian, 50-60 years
old, with medium-length grey hair and a
thin build. Campus 5-0 would like all
users of the Van Vleet Centre to be aware
of this incident and immediately report
suspicious persons to 5-0 or to Van Vleet
Centre staff. Both CSS and the Edmonton
Police Service are investigating.

SUP-SLIDIN' AWAY

In the evening of 17 March, 5-0 constables
on patrol attempted to pull over a
blue Ford truck on 112 Street, but the
truck fled the area when the officers
turned on the lights. The vehicle stop
was then terminated, but a short time
later the truck was observed on 117
Street after having struck a light post.
The male driver ran from the area down a
steep embankment into the darkness.
EPS was contacted and attended with a
dog unit to search the area. It was con-
firmed that the truck was stolen and
contained, among other things, a replica
handgun. EPS is investigating.

ST PATRICK'S DAY MASSACRE

Around 2am on 18 March, Campus
Security and PowerPlant staff responded
to a complaint that a patron was in pos-
session of a knife. Another patron was
in a washroom when the male suspect
swiped his green St Paddy's Day hat and
cut the top with the knife. The victim
was able to provide a description of the
suspect, who was located leaving the
premises by investigating officers. He
was arrested and found to be in possession
of a pocket knife. The suspect had
no University affiliation and a criminal
record of violent offences, and was tres-
passed and escorted off campus.

SNOWY-SOFT PILLOW

Just before 1am on 18 March, an
Edmonton Transit bus driver flagged
down patrolling Campus Security
constables. The driver had kicked an
intoxicated male off the bus, and he
was lying on the sidewalk in the snow
near the rear of the bus. The constables
determined that the male was
extremely intoxicated and that he had
previously come to the attention of
5-0 under similar circumstances. He was
transported to hospital for assessment.

MAN IN BLACK

At about 1:30pm on 19 March, Campus
5-0 received a report of a suspicious
male in the Tory Atrium. Officers then
located a 36-year-old male matching
the description who had an extensive
criminal history relating to violence and
property crimes. He was trespassed and
escorted off campus.NEWS
BRIEFS

Compiled by Jake Troughton

PROTESTERS MARCH THROUGH SNOW

More than 100 protesters marched
through heavy snow along Whyte
Avenue on Sunday to mark the third
anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.Carrying signs that read "Stop this ille-
gal war," and "No to US imperialism," and
chanting slogans such as, "No blood for
oil," the group—which was about half
the expected size, likely due to the week-
end's heavy snowfall—made its way
from the University to the Strathcona
Arts Barns for the protest. The rally was
organized by the Edmonton Coalition
Against War and Racism."Today is the third anniversary of the
US-UK-led, illegal, immoral, unjust war
on Iraq," said Doug Meggison, one of
the event's organizers, according to the
Edmonton Journal. "We'll be holding
peace demonstrations as long as that
war continues."The Edmonton march was part of a
string of protests across Canada. Toronto
police estimated that 1000 people assem-
bled at a downtown courthouse across
from the US consulate, while Vancouver's
rally attracted over 2000 people.

CONTROLLING THE ARMS

On Friday afternoon Ken Epp, Member
of Parliament for Edmonton SherwoodPark, will be on campus to accept a peti-
tion from the Control Arms Campaign
calling for a global small arms treaty.Members of Amnesty International
and Oxfam International have been col-
lecting signatures on campus, and Epp
has agreed to table it in Parliament once
it's presented to him in a brief ceremony
in Quad at 1pm Friday.Quad will also host a Control Arms
Campaign display from 10am to 2pm
Friday. The display will include photos
that are part of the One Million Faces
campaign, which is collecting photos
and self-portraits from people around
the world who are calling for tighter con-
trols on the global arms trade. According
to the Control Arms website, over 900
000 people have signed up for the proj-
ect, and Friday's display will be equipped
to add students who wish to take part.

NUTRITION INVASION

Thursday afternoon, three professors
from across Canada will be on campus at
Bernard Snell Hall in the U of A Hospital
for a nutrition symposium entitled "It's
all about fats."Students taking Nutrition 440 (cur-
rent topics in nutritional science) have
organized the symposium, which will
take place from 3:30-5:30pm.March is also Nutrition Month in
Canada, and the Nutrition Food Science
Students Association (NufSSA) is observ-
ing it with several events. Tomorrow
from 1-2pm in room 211 of the General
Services Building, Heidi Bates will be
speaking on "Making healthy food
choices while eating out."

STREETERS

Recently, attempts were made to categorize activities such as bridge and ballroom dancing as sports.

Do you think Scrabble is a sport?

Ling Chang
Nursing IKhaled
Moustarah
Arts IBen Topinka
Engineering IIJames Quon
Science II think Scrabble would probably be a
sport, because you're using your mind.
And there are already Scrabble competi-
tions too.I think it's a sport, because you've got
two people or four people competing.
High-level competition, you've got a
winner and you've got a loser. It's also
fun, it's recreation.No, I say it's not a sport. There has to be
a risk of getting hurt for it to be a sport.
Scrabble just isn't hardcore, as much as
I love it.I don't think I'd classify it as a sport. If
it was, then all board games would be
sports, right? No, I'd put sports under
athletic activity. I think.

Compiled and photographed by Scott Lilwall and Dana Komperdo

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MUSIC TRIVIA SUNDAY NIGHTS

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STUDENT-TEACHER RELATIONS Dr Pawel Gburzynski's internal e-mail criticizing teacher evaluations was made public.

Controversial e-mail sparks debate about teacher evaluations at U of A

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
News Staff

When Dr Pawel Gburzynski wrote to the associate chair of the department of computing science, Dr Jim Hoover, to express his frustration over the use of teaching evaluations, he never intended the comments to be read by students.

"[But] once you get upset by a small number of baboons, and then you realize at some point those baboons will actually anonymously comment on your performance in this course, and that somebody may look at it and take it as something that matters, then it's not a very comfortable feeling."

DR PAWEŁ GBURZYNSKI
U OF A PROFESSOR

However, the internal e-mail was subsequently forwarded to the listserve, everyone@math.ualberta.ca, by one of the department's sessional instructors, prompting some students to become offended and frustrated by Gburzynski's expressed sentiments towards instructor evaluations and certain students.

"I have never cared much about teaching evaluations, and stopped opening those envelopes many years ago," Gburzynski wrote.

He added that students who he felt have failed to show either interest or respect in his class should not be entitled to evaluate him as an instructor.

"The thought that those few social paths will write something about me that a decent person may take seriously makes me sick," he wrote.

One math student, who asked to remain anonymous, explained his/her reaction to the e-mail was shared by many of his/her peers, but that most students are afraid to comment on the record.

"There's some fear of being labelled as trouble," the student said, adding that it was discouraging to know that teacher evaluations are not taken seriously.

"Hundreds of students have read that [e-mail]," the student said, explaining that "a lot of people were quite offended by it."

But Gburzynski, whose experiences with certain students in his current Computer Science 379 class fuelled frustration, and motivated him to write the unintentionally inflammatory e-mail, stressed he has no doubts some of his students have a vested interest in learning.

"I don't want to offend anybody; I'm sure I have quite a few good students," Gburzynski clarified.

"[But] once you get upset by a small number of baboons, and then you realize at some point those baboons will actually anonymously comment on your performance in this course, and that somebody may look at it and take it as something that matters, then it's not a very comfortable feeling."

Hoover also pointed out that it's not uncommon for university instructors to become upset when faced with obstacles in their teaching environment.

"Academics in general are very interested with passing on knowledge, so we get very frustrated when those, so they interfere with that," Hoover said.

According to Gburzynski, students who come to his class with no prior knowledge of the subject matter are not capable of appraising the content of his course.

"Teaching evaluations would make sense if they were doing these evaluations ten, 20 years later when they go to work and they see how it affects their careers and lives," Gburzynski said.

And despite having suggested in his e-mail that he no longer reads his own teaching evaluations, Gburzynski explained that his evaluations are quite satisfactory.

"I'm not one of those people who have an axe to grind; no, my teaching evaluations are quite good. But I still don't like them," he said.

But one of Gburzynski's current Computer Science 379 students, who also asked for anonymity, said that the contents of e-mail didn't come as a shock.

"It's a really good class, but he's kind of a dick to the students. He's always going on and on about how he's teaching because he wants to and [how] if we piss him off he's just going to walk out," the student said.

Still, Gburzynski said his e-mail was only meant to spark further debate about the most effective method of collecting student commentary.

"I'm not into revolutionizing the system. The intention [of the e-mail] was to start a discussion," Gburzynski explained.

Furthermore, Hoover said the debate surrounding the validity of teaching evaluations is nothing new and shouldn't be seen as a result of a serious flaw in the academic system.

"[This debate] has been around since I was an undergrad. I don't think that we're going to get any institutional change on them," Hoover said.

Even so, Hoover would like to see more work done to improve the way feedback is collected from students so that it can be used to improve the academic experience.

"When you really look at it, [teaching evaluations have] nothing at all to do with improving education, and that's been a comment of many faculty members for years and years and years," Hoover said.

But even with support for a change in the way teaching evaluations are administered, Gburzynski expressed doubt over the ability to create a system that would be universally satisfactory.

"It's very difficult to come up with a coherent program that would satisfy absolutely everybody," Gburzynski acknowledged.

EVALUATIONS

The Universal Student Ratings of Instruction are anonymous course evaluations that students fill out near the end of the semester for each course. For classes of more than ten students, there are ten questions that must be asked, though departments

and faculties are encouraged to add more questions.

The results are compiled by the departments and made available to students online at https://karl.srv.ualberta.ca/pls/webuser/pubreport_usr1_login

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Pilot project takes AG students out of the classroom and into the field

CHLOE PEDRO
Deputy News Editor

Agriculture students are getting a head start on their careers, as a new project to get students working in their field before graduation was launched this semester.

Ellen Goddard, Chair of the Department of Rural Economy, explained that the project is for both undergraduate and graduate students who are working towards combined agriculture and business management degrees.

"We've got it started at a very pilot level this term," Goddard said. "We're expecting that some of the projects could extend into summer placements for some of the students."

And though this type of real-world experience for students is not entirely new, there are some differences.

"We've really got a big push from the government behind it, and the government has agreed to be the liaison," Goddard said, adding that there's a big push to get students working in the field before they graduate.

Bodo Steiner, assistant professor of Rural Economy, has been working directly with students, giving them project descriptions they can choose to be involved in.

"[The project works] to complement the knowledge that we're trying to convey in the courses, so that it's actually a real world application of all the management issues and the legal issues that surround marketing and business plans," Steiner said.

He went on to say that though it's volunteer work, it's also a way for students to get their foot in the door of a company, which may be linked to the field they hope to pursue.

Goddard pointed to organizations in the province, such as the Agriculture and Food Council, that work on improving opportunities for value-added activities in the agriculture and food industry.

"Experiential learning is critical; it's where you put the pieces together," Goddard said. "We're hoping that it might enhance the students' opportunities for employment."

Along with other students in his group, Chuck Schwanbeck is involved in the value-chain initiative, and working with intellectual property in the agricultural field.

"It's the first time we've been directly helping a company with their marketing problems," Schwanbeck said. "They were very interested in talking to the students to get new faces in the organization."

And though the project has been going well so far, Steiner explained that there are some challenges.

"The companies, naturally, have some hesitation to give away some financial data, to open up their books, and let the students write a business plan," Steiner said. "It's sensitive information."

He went on to say that when companies make the decision to put their trust in the students, it can result in some fresh perspectives on old things, to add value on every stage of the business.

Schwanbeck added that because the project is still in its preliminary phase, there are some challenges, but that ultimately, it's a good learning experience.

"So far it's been challenging because we've had to deal with markets in far-away places," Schwanbeck said, adding that working with intellectual property



AGRICULTURALLY INCLINED Dr Bodo Steiner (left) and Dr Ellen Goddard (right) promote out-of-university learning.

also has its challenges.

"Intellectual-property-wise, they're looking for something new that nobody grows around this area that they can have an advantage towards."

And aside from possible employment opportunities for students fol-

lowing the project, Goddard was positive about how the project contributes to a student's experience in the classroom.

"You know, students that do these kind of projects become much more excited about what they're learning."

Goddard said. "And I don't know how to explain that, but they say, 'Oh, that boring accounting course, I actually used it,' and then they start getting more excited about what they're actually learning; they usually become more motivated students."

GSA AGM

Monday, March 27, 2006 at 6pm
Tory Lecture TL-11

All grad students are called to attend the most important GSA meeting of the year! Any grad student can vote on or introduce any item of business at this meeting, so you don't have to be on GSA Council to make a big difference for your GSA at the AGM!

The main items of business will be elections for next year's Executive Committee and reports from the current Executive on the past year. Election polls will open at 5pm and there will be an opportunity to hear the candidates speak at 6pm.

All grad students are strongly encouraged to come out and participate directly in your democratic student government!

Attention Grad Students!



Your Graduate Students' Association
is holding its Annual General Meeting

For more information visit www.gsa.ualberta.ca

Public health school 'functioning now'

PUBLIC HEALTH • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Roger Palmer, a former deputy minister with Alberta Health and Wellness, is the interim dean of the new faculty while steps are taken to hire someone to fill the role permanently. And while the official announcement was made less than a week ago, the School of Public Health is already working on its most basic levels.

"Effectively, it's functioning now. We have some public health sciences

that now become the School of Public Health," Marrie said.

He added that though the task is just beginning, he's hopeful that the U of A will continue to develop the initiative, and improve upon American schools that have similar mandates.

"They've done some things that are not so good; they end up duplicating the functions of other parts of the university. We don't want to do that; we want to take the best of the US and incorporate it into what we're

doing—not duplicate," he said.

Both Marrie and Samarasekera were hopeful that the federal government would recognize the initiative brought forth in the creation of this school with an increase in funding.

"I think we shouldn't underestimate the power, the leadership, and the opportunity here, and all of these people really should be commended for what might look easy on paper, but is incredibly visionary to accomplish," Samarasekera said.

University on board with SU and GSA in joint agreement for new tuition policy

TUITION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The proposal set forth by Lettner had three main commitment goals: to recognize the value of public funding for affordability of postsecondary education; to improve the sustainability of Alberta's system to make it a national leader in quality and cost; and to "recognize that the goals of accessibility, affordability, and sustainable funding are indivisible components of the overarching goal of enhancing the Alberta advanced education system."

Lettner's resolution faced some opposition by Board members who were concerned by a technicality: though the proposal represented both the SU and the GSA, Tols Bakinson, GSA president and BoG representative for graduate students, was not present at Friday's meeting. Further attempts were made to alter Lettner's proposal before it went to vote, but eventually the Board unanimously passed the motion in its original format.

"I realize the difficulty of getting the input of every Board member into a resolution like this, in a kind of coherent and cohesive fashion,"



POUNDERING TUITION Students' Union President Graham Lettner (centre).

Lettner said.

Still, he was hopeful that the commitment would result in a more affordable policy, and give the U of A a greater voice in the struggle against

rising tuition costs.

"I'd characterize it as a good, firm commitment," Lettner said. "It opens the door for any kind of collaboration."

Bay to make room for public auditorium



THINGS ARE SHAPING UP University President Dr Indira Samarasekera.

BAY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

And even with the added construction, the project is proceeding without delays, Hickey said.

Samarasekera explained that the main floor of the building will have a public auditorium, where students and the general public alike can gather.

"I'm hoping that we will be able to schedule and have public events, and invite keynote speakers, you know, interesting people to speak there. And we would very much want the students to come down there to those kinds of things to get kind of broad perspective on big world issues."

The old Hudson's Bay building was declared a Municipal Historic Resource in 1989 and the University is keen on protecting its heritage value as a historical landmark, while capitalizing on its ability expand across the North Saskatchewan River.

A large portion of the space in the Bay building is designated for the new home of the Research Transition Facility (RTF), a campus resource devoted to commercializing research while helping companies in the transition from an academic research environment to the commercial private sector.

The building also is the new home of TBC Edmonton, and is set to host a small number of students from the faculty of extension Samarasekera explained. She went on to say that while some of the courses would be for U of A students, others would be for off-campus students.

"That's one element of student mobility going in and out of downtown," she said.

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New words ruining game of Scrabble

MY EARLIEST MEMORY of playing Scrabble involved a fair amount of cheating. At the time, I knew words and spelling in their most basic forms, and was unfamiliar with many of the rules that make the game such a mentally challenging task. And, though I'd like to think I'm reaching my prime—with a current high score of 409—the game itself is being drastically altered with the publication of a new official Scrabble dictionary.

Now, dictionaries in their purest form hold thousands of words, some more obscure than others, that are used in common everyday speech, or other more pretentious conversations fuelled by academic debate. But the Scrabble dictionary is unique in its acknowledgement of words that most people wouldn't even consider to be words: aa, a rough and cindery lava; boccoco, an alternate spelling of the French word bouccoo, and penno, the shortened version of postmodernism. And, though some words, like qi, the alternate spelling of the Chinese word chi, may help a player get rid of the dreaded Q without the need for a U, these additions aren't contributing to the betterment of the game, or adding to the advantage of skilled players.

Instead, they merely give a competitive edge to people who have exceptional memorization skills, and are able to use obscure words, some of which are considered non-words in everyday life, all with the purpose of a higher scoring win. With the addition of these new words to the Scrabble dictionary, the game has been significantly altered, and letter values that were once reflective of the limited number of words they could produce, are now not as relevant.

In September 1996, the National Scrabble Association's Dictionary Committee was formed with a mandate to develop and maintain the lexicon used at sanctioned clubs and tournaments. But, in its most extreme form—manifest in the latest version of the Scrabble dictionary—the addition to the lexicon and the shift away from the use of real words more the game away from an appreciation of the complexities of language towards a bastardization of an already significantly flawed language.

There's more to Scrabble than simply spelling words and memorizing the dictionary. Competitive players are aware of strategic placements of words, or either benefit from multiple plays in one turn, or prevent the next player from an advantageous opening up of the board. To some degree, the game relies on the lack of choosing exceptional letters that provide the opportunity for high scoring. Still, bluffing plays an important role: a player can use a fake word and still win the game if no opponent takes the risk to challenge it. All these important facets of the game are being undermined by fake words.

Playing words from the new Scrabble dictionary is the equivalent of an athlete using steroids to win a race, or a student memorizing the key to a multiple choice test to get the correct A. And, though inherent skill and strenuous training become less and less important as more and more provocative ways to bend the rules are created, in the spirit of winning, I must concede: I'm forced to use these sickly non-words, these embarrassments to language, to keep up with the rat race. Like most things in life, I must change along with it, and Scrabble, intricate enough in its natural state, has just made my life a lot more complicated.

CHLOE PEDRO
Deputy News Editor

Exposed his privates

THE RCMP HAVE CHARGED former Canadian privacy commissioner George Radwanski with fraud and breach of trust in connection with financial anomalies in his travel allowances.

The real mystery in all of this isn't whether he spent the money, or whether he spent it wrongly—it's how in the name of God he got caught. I'd really expect more secrecy from the commissioner of privacy.

TIM PEPPIN
Opinion Editor

LETTERS

Foreign cars nothing but foreign crap

Derek Grebinski's article about the sorry state of American automobiles stuck me as being typical of a lot of talk I hear about American cars (Re: "Guilt doesn't save souls, or sell cars," 16 March). Most people who claim to be knowledgeable when it comes to automobiles go on not so much about the quality of their beloved Asian automobiles, but on the dismal quality of their American cousins. Like Mr Grebinski, I comfort myself in knowing how things are, but there's even greater comfort in being able to substantiate my beliefs.

The opinion section is where an article like this belongs, because it's rather short on facts. Mr Grebinski explicitly says that American vehicles are far worse in terms of initial quality and repair costs than all other vehicle manufacturers. I gathered this from his use of the phrase, "Terrible, terrible vehicles in comparison to everything else." I was flabbergasted; I drive an American car built during the oft-maligned early '90s period, and have never had any problems with it. Then I decided to do something Mr Grebinski apparently never bothered to: I checked into it. I guess the Internet can be pretty daunting, what with all the pop ups and stuff.

I dug up the 2004 J.D. Power and Associates Initial Quality Survey that notes the sudden rise in Hyundai's quality. Yes, Hyundai is above Chevrolet and Dodge, but it's also below Cadillac and Buick. Mercury, Chevrolet is actually average in terms of the IQS, which seemed strange after reading Mr Grebinski's piece. Even stranger things happened when I looked below the average. Below all the big-name American brands, you find auto-ric favourites like Nissan, Mazda, Porsche and Lexus. In fact, they're as far from average as Chevrolet is from the top of the list. This doesn't sound like they're "kicking the ass of American manufacturers" to me.

If Mr Grebinski had done even a little research into anything he felt obliged to say, the article could have been reduced to "I like my car." The remainder of the piece could have focused on all the positive things Americans have done for the American auto industry.

BEN WILKIE
Chemical Engineering V

Thanks for exposing herbal quackery

It was a refreshing change to read an article on the alternative-medicine scam that made sense (Re: "Future of pharmacy: robots and herbs," 16 March). It's disturbing that postsecondary institutions have responded to this pseudo-science not in an academic way, but in a way that panders to the lowest denominator and simply buys into it. It's as though the topic is too politically correct to challenge with reason and logic.

It's sad that the majority of courses offered don't do the rigorous of real questions of interest: how inert therapies can appear to be effective; how a need for hope drives people into the hands of quacks; what harm is



done by miseducating people about their health; how this phenomenon is simply a continuation of the same irrational behaviours that generate superstition and religion.

Instead, it appears most of the education in this area (even at universities) is simply put in the hands of quacks. Many colleges will actually offer entire programs in the practice of CAM.

Your article was a rare treat—thanks for calling a spade a spade.

LLOYD OFFEL
Vancouver, British Columbia

Berghoff owes campus an apology

On 14 March, Arts Councilor Catrin Berghoff posted a message on the Students' Union webboard referring to Safewalk as "some random volunteer organization whose requirements are showing up once a week and putting on a yellow jacket," as well as implying that we serve no real function on campus.

This is an insult towards one of the most visible student services on campus and to anyone who gives their time to any volunteer organization. It is Safewalk, the Gateway, the Food Bank or APRG. As a Safewalk volunteer, I know that the service is much more than a volunteer Berghoff describes. At minimum, Safewalk volunteers are expected to volunteer three hours per week, and many volunteers give over seven, compared to the minimum three to four hours every two weeks for representatives on Students' Council.

Safewalk is seen in the SU's own surveys as very beneficial to the University, both as a deterrent to crime and for enhancing student comfort and safety by providing safe accompaniment to people on and near campus. Some would go as far as to consider Safewalk more beneficial to the University than

the Students' Council. Ms Berghoff needs to retract her statement immediately and publicly apologize to Safewalk, Safewalk volunteers and the rest of the student body.

The SU, in all of its endeavours, is an organization run by volunteers. Without people like us, there would be no advocacy campaigns, no services, just a hollow shell of an organization. We do what we do for the love of the cause, and out of compassion for our fellow students. While we don't expect pay or public accolades for what we do, the least we expect is respect and recognition from those who claim to serve us on the SU's governing bodies.

DAWAN RUSSELL
Engineering II
Safewalk volunteer

Berghoff's Safewalk comments insulting

Catrin Berghoff, Member of Students' Council for the Faculty of Arts, recently commented on the SU webboard: "I think Safewalk is one of the less valuable services, and if any of you Safewalkers would care enough about the body that governs you to actually vote in council elections, then you might have asked me about that during my rather active campaigning last year. Council cannot be compared to other volunteer organizations. It is a provincially legislated body which is supposed to represent students at all levels. It clearly stands above organizations such as Safewalk or any other one of the services in the same way that the Alberta legislature stands above an organization that is provincially funded. We decide whether you are useful, whether you fulfill students' needs, and whether you live or die."

Ms Berghoff, you have a lot of nerve to suggest that your job is superior to all other Student Services

volunteers. Your job is different—not superior or more significant. We plan. We execute. You evaluate. Your evaluations can be valid and useful, but without us—the volunteers behind the scenes—any comments you have to give are moot. Without dedicated volunteers, nothing gets done and nothing changes. You may control whether services thrive with adequate resources or flounder without them, but the fact is we work together to build the campus we want to see.

By the way—and this is for all students, staff and members of our campus community—even if you've never called Safewalk, they're still out there patrolling campus to keep it safe for you. Campus was safe when you arrived as an undergrad and it will stay safe long after you leave with your degree. Safewalk has made an invaluable contribution to campus safety for over ten years. That is not going to change—even if Students' Council takes issue with our budget. Even if some councilors make public claims against our service. It's simple: students care about being safe on campus.

HALEY O'CONNOR
Education III
Safewalk volunteer

Remind the government of their election promises

As tax season is upon us, I have recently been reminded of certain promises made to us by our newly elected prime minister. The Conservative Party's federal election platform 2006 included the following, which I quote directly from their platform: 1) Exempt the first \$10,000 of student scholarship or bursary income from taxation, and 2) Provide students or their parents with a federal tax credit on spending up to \$500 per year on textbooks.

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 7

Netherlands' new immigration policy not a case of religious discrimination



TIM PEPPIN

The Netherlands, according to some friends of mine who "walked through" its red-light districts and coffee shops, is a fairly liberal place. Prostitution, gay marriage, drug use, euthanasia, and safe-injection programs are, if not officially smiled upon, at least tolerated in Dutch culture.

So it was with some surprise that I learned, in an effort to curb immigration and to avoid crimes based on ideological conflicts, the Dutch government was putting in place a test of potential immigrants' "readiness to participate in the liberal Dutch culture." Controversially, the test obliges the prospective immigrant to purchase a DVD that shows, among other things, two men kissing, and a made woman on a beach. If they can't handle it, they won't get in.

Critics of the new test claim that it's a case of religious discrimination against Muslims. However, what we must realize before condemning the Netherlands is that all immigration policies are, in one way or another, discriminatory. Immigration, unlike the acceptance of refugees, isn't really done for the benefit of those immigrating. Instead, at least in Canada, immi-

grants are filtered and selected based upon their ability to contribute to the Canadian workforce and economy.

For working immigrants, their level of education and training, work experience, age and adaptability are all assessed. They must also have at least \$17 800 saved. Foreign business people must have a net worth of at least \$800 000, and must invest at least \$400 000 in Canada. Our provinces have programs to encourage immigrants to settle in specific locations, usually to bolster a flagging local economy.

It's discriminatory against a particular religion only as far as that religion happens to promote those particular beliefs.

In a very real way, immigrants are treated as a commodity, to be brought in for the benefit of a country. Because of this, criteria are put in place to distinguish between applicants—to discriminate.

There's no real reason why the criteria for selection should focus on economic potential, or that, if the focus is on an applicant's wealth, that this precludes the possibility of the same kind of religious "discrimination."

Suppose, for example, that most

Christians actually followed the example of Christ and lived a life of poverty. Because their poverty is mandated by their religion, does it then follow that an immigration policy requiring a certain amount of wealth is discriminatory against Christians? Of course not. The stipulation is put in place because it's for the benefit of the country. If people's health, age, education or expertise isn't deemed beneficial, then the country is entirely right to deny them entry.

In this case, the government line is that people with beliefs that clash strongly with those commonly held in the Netherlands will have trouble integrating in, and contributing to, Dutch society and that, as a consequence, they should be passed over in favour of others. It's a fair point. The discrimination is against what are considered destructive beliefs. It's discriminatory against a particular religion only as far as that religion happens to promote those particular beliefs.

The real problem with this policy isn't that it's discriminatory against Muslims, in particular—although that may well be its hidden purpose—it's that, by choosing immigrants based upon their beliefs, the Dutch government runs the risk of dictating what is and isn't acceptable opinion, and endangers the freedom of thought and expression. It's a curiously conservative move for such a liberal society and I'm left to wonder, if I'm uncomfortable around topless, stoned hookers, am I a bad person?

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

These two initiatives could be considerably important to students; I know my taxes would have been very different if these initiatives were already in place. Therefore, in fear that these two lines will be forgotten at the federal level, I'm encouraging people to write the prime minister and inquire as to when these items will be put in place. He can be reached at pm@pm.gc.ca.

KINDRA WHEATLEY
Grad Studies II

Livid on a prayer

Regarding Chris O'Leary's 16 March contribution to the article, "Celebrity knock-

outs: fighting the stars," it was funny as can be. He wrote: "Jon Bon, as I've come to know and loathe him as, is the ultimate '80s rocker who should have gone away 15 years ago but somehow hasn't."

For not disappearing 15 years ago, and for contaminating the world with songs that make guys with mullets cheer when they hear them on the radio, Jon Bon, one day I'm going to beat the holy living hell out of you."

Your comments, as offensive as you've tried to be, proved only that Jon Bon Jovi will be around for ever. However, you should get some of your facts straight. First, Jon Bon Jovi has been around for 22 years, not 15, and, as of this week, is in the top-10 on the country charts. Second, Jon never, ever, ever had a mullet. Third and final fact: JON BON JOVI WOULD

SO KICK YOUR FUCKING ASS!
Keep the faith.

LETHA WILSON
Fort Worth, Texas

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

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Point Counterpoint: the English language needs a new pronoun

'He' and 'she' cause all kinds of problems—we should use 'nu'

Is nu crazy? We don't need it, and it wouldn't work anyway



NINA
VARSAVA

Point

I'm thinking of dropping English, and picking up some other language that won't impose unreasonable limitations on my discourse. Possibly Finnish. Finnish is a good language: "hän" means "he" and "she," or, rather, neither "he" nor "she." It's a gender-inclusive singular pronoun.

But, before I take off to Finland—because I do like Canada a lot, and because learning a new language is such hard work—I thought I'd make a final proposition to the English-speaking world.

I don't know how we've come this far—half a million words far—without having a gender-inclusive singular pronoun. Of course, we've found ways of dealing with the dilemma of our gender-specific pronouns, but these "solutions" are largely unsatisfactory.

In speech, we often subvert grammatical rules, using "they" even when referring to a single person. In writing, however, where there's a greater expectation for grammatical correctness, the problem of gendered pronouns becomes more acute. Some people use "one," as in, "If one were to use 'one' in one's writing, one would likely sound pretentious, and possibly ridiculous." We may also choose to use "she or he," "he/she" or "s/he," but these constructions also make for a choppy and awkward style of writing. The best alternative is usually to make all singular references plural, but this just doesn't work when you really only want to refer to a single person.

You might be thinking, "Get over it, Nina: stop using the nature of the English language as an excuse for your crappy writing." Well okay, but

having gendered pronouns—and *only* gendered pronouns—creates greater problems than just the stylistic ones I've discussed so far. The he/she binary implies that there's a clear-cut divide between the male and female genders, leaving no room for the infinite genders in between. In addition, there are problematic connotations that come with "he" and "she," which often produce unsubstantiated assumptions about an individual.

Notions of a gender-inclusive singular pronoun have been tossed around in the past, but nothing has ever really come of them. And I know that I can't just invent a new pronoun and expect the English world to adopt it. The pronoun would have to be worked into our language simultaneously from the bottom-up and from the top-down. Teachers and professors would have to teach the gender-inclusive pronoun in school, emphasizing its novelty and its potential benefits.

At the same time, we'd have to start using the pronoun in our everyday interactions—despite the confusion and embarrassment that this might entail. Only with a concerted and unforgiving effort can this new pronoun ever take on an integral role in the English language.

Nevertheless, English is ours to manipulate, and I don't think we should have to stumble through its deficiencies, acquiescing to its unreasonable demands, any longer.

Finally, the pronoun I propose is *nu*. It works in much the same way as "you," but here it is in all its forms in order to avoid confusion: Morgan let me use *nu* in my article, but *nu* doesn't want me to disclose *nu* gender. *Nu's* gender is *nurs* to define for *nurs*elf.

Even though it sounds totally absurd right now, once we incorporate the "nu" into our writing and speaking, I think we'll soon wonder how we ever got by without it.

If this doesn't go anywhere, though, there's always Finland: where a language awaits that already fulfills my fantasies of gender inclusivity.



RAMLIN
OSTAD

Counterpoint

I've got to say, Nina, I wish I could agree with you. I mean, your heart's in the right place. Like you, I'm all for gender equality. Save giving birth and freestanding urination, I believe both men and women can do anything they want. However, in a lot of places, your logic is severely flawed.

For one thing, I don't entirely support your reasons for wanting to change the gender structure of a language that's perfectly fine as it is, in my opinion. I mean, certainly you don't expect us to want to change our language simply due to awkward social situations.

If one can't tell the gender of someone's newly born baby, one should stop being such a fucking git and just ask the baby's parental unit(s) if it's a boy or a girl. And let's be real here: if you can't tell if someone is a man or a woman, a "gender-inclusive" pronoun isn't going to stop you, or anyone else, from feeling awkward.

It's very possible that this person is a "transvestite," another term we've developed to describe someone who's part of the "infinite" number of "in-between" genders—whatever the hell that means. All you are really offering here is an alternative form of suggesting that you have no clue whether someone is male or female.

Which pisses me right off because, frankly, I'm pretty tired of having to change language for the sake of political correctness, or equality, or any other arguments used to prove some shade of faux-altruism.

Our society can't change drastically by adding a single word, or taking out a couple, any more than society can change the connotations of a word by making it socially acceptable—see the N-bomb, for example. I'm not saying it's okay to have tag-lines like, "Strong enough for a man; made for a woman," but, "Help solve *nu's* erectile dysfunction!" doesn't really work, since, you know, women lack penises—and not just metaphorically.

No matter what kind of logic you throw into the bag, there will always be women, and there will always be men, and nothing will ever change the need in our society for gender exclusivity.

That doesn't mean, however, that this kind of thinking will always separate the genders, or prevent female equality. To suggest that Finland, because of their gender neutral pronouns, has become a utopia of equality is not only ridiculous, but breaches on fallacy. One hundred years ago, places like Finland were no more gender-equal than North America, and the idea that there's a direct correlation between a gender-neutral pronoun and societal gender equality is frankly stupid. Obviously, someone didn't pass stats class.

But for argument's sake, lets try your gender-inclusive optimism. For example, a *nur* comes home drunk one night, while *nur's* nurfried was waiting up all night for *nur*. *Nur* tried to get *nur* to apologize for acting the way *nur* was acting, but *nur* wouldn't listen, and wanted to have sex with *nur*. Somehow, *nur* persuades *nur's* nurfried to have sex, but suddenly *nur's* penis became completely flaccid, due to the alcohol.

What part of that was gender inclusive, exactly? This is what you're suggesting, right? That he/she be taken right out of our language? Well, here is your perfect language *Nina*, in all of its confusing, convoluted and radically feminist glory. Enjoy.

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For information on the candidates and how to vote, visit:
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Make a difference in Alberta: join the Conservative party



DANIEL
KASZOR

I don't think it would be a stretch to assume that most of the University campus, and therefore, most of the readership of this paper, aren't members of the Provincial Conservative Party of Alberta. This isn't to make an assumption on your politics, just the fact that most people, as a rule, don't get involved on the party level. This is an error. Each and every one of you should go and buy a Provincial Conservative membership right now.

Now, this is where I go into the rather stereotypical rant about how the "real" election is in choosing the PC party leader, because there isn't any chance of change in the actual election. About how this is really the first time in more than a decade and a half to actually effect change. But, quite honestly, I don't think you need to hear that because, barring some sort of massive shift in Alberta politics, it's fairly obvious. However, I can give you a few more specific reasons for why you should join and vote.

First, if you regularly vote for the PC party, and you basically agree with their politics, why the hell aren't you trying to get your voice heard on the party level? I'm sure you'd rather have your voice deciding the fate of your party than that of some good-old-boy, back-scratching, cocktail-party-schmoozing low-life.

Second, if you generally don't know who to vote for in the provincial election, you should join as well. You can be swayed by issues and good ideas, and are a prime candidate to listen

and choose. Wouldn't it be nice to have a provincial party with someone at the helm who respects ideas rather than politicking? Don't you want to make sure that it does?

Third, if you absolutely hate the PCs and everything they stand for, don't you think it would be helpful if you got into the party and helped choose a leader whom you don't find so repugnant? Sure, you'll have to join a party that you may well revile, but isn't getting a markedly more palatable candidate worth getting some party junk mail?

Of course, some naysayers may be harrumphing the idea of joining a party that you don't really believe in, just to vote in the leadership race, saying that goes against the spirit of party leadership elections. But if you don't want the party to be open to a flow of new ideas from the population, in what sense is it part of a functioning democracy?

One thing I do need to warn against, though, is going in and voting for someone because you think that they're so awful that there would be no way that the Albertan people would elect a government run by them. Two things here. First, this, unlike joining a party you don't really agree with, really does fly in the face of democracy, and second, knowing Albertans, they'd vote for a Hitler chicken if it wore a PC button, so don't chance it.

Ultimately, the choice of party leader will change the political landscape of Alberta, regardless of whether the PCs are in power or not. Our political scene is so defined by this one single party that, really, the choice of its direction should flow from everyone in Alberta, not just a select few. Hell, maybe in 40 years people will be lining up to join the New Democrats to vote on a replacement for high-cyborg-chancellor Pannu. Nah, probably not. The New Democrats would never get into power.



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AMANDA
TERMEER

After having a one-night stand, most women see their reflections in a physical and psychological mirror. With runny mascara, smeared lipstick, bad hair and dishevelled clothes, we often ponder our identity: am I a virgin or a whore? Afterwards, we proceed to take off our confidence and makeup, and begin to question our actions based on what we desire, and how we're supposed to act.

The "virgin and whore" dichotomy is ancient: one of the earliest mentions is quite religious. The Bible has two archetypal, yet opposite, females: the Virgin Mary, who gave birth to Jesus, and Mary Magdalene, the alleged prostitute who was the first to recognize the risen Christ. They're two extremes, and are equally unnatural. How many women could give up their sexuality, or choose to become a prostitute? Clearly, women have been struggling with their sexual desires and societal expectations for thousands of years.

Although women have been dealing with the virgin and whore complex for ages, it appears to be getting more severe with time. Women are subconsciously making themselves "childlike" and virginal through excessive dieting. The new image of a woman is pre-pubescent and skeletal. We dye our hair blonde, and try to remain sweet and silent. At the same time, women have natural impulses and a genetic disposition to retain fat for the purpose of childbearing. We're also natural leaders, with ideas to voice instead of constantly nodding. There's a contradiction between what we want, and how we're supposed to be.

Pop culture is especially schizophrenic regarding woman's sexuality. Sometimes we're told that women are meant to have curves and a healthy sexual appetite. Very few celebrities act this way. Other times, the archetypal woman is child-like

and aloof. The examples are almost endless: from Kate Moss to Mary-Kate, there are silent, skeletal beauties. After a while, our confusion leads to frustration. Are we supposed to be quiet, demure, skinny and virginal? Or are we meant to be confident, brave, curvaceous and sexual? We can look at our hips with either disdain or pleasure.

Oddly enough, the Mormons were the first people to play around with the rules of our societal game. Joseph Smith introduced the idea of polygamy to Mormon settlements. Although polygamy appears to go against women's liberation, the effect was surprising.

Women are subconsciously making themselves "childlike" and virginal through excessive dieting. The new image of a woman is pre-pubescent and skeletal.

Suddenly, Mormon women were free from their husbands and societal expectations. Notions of "true love" were eliminated. Women were no longer pressured to look a certain way, or behave like virgins or whores, since they were married off fairly young to feminine households. Many Mormon women were liberated by the experience, and gained confidence and power in the households. Salt Lake City, the Mormon capital, was the first place to give women the vote. At the end of the 19th century, many Mormon women were professionals.

Becoming a Mormon may not be right for everyone, but it's a start. We should stop fumbling around in the dark and turn on the lights; we must accept ourselves as women capable of a variety of emotions. We aren't virgins or whores, but human beings. Women take more than some poking and prodding to orgasm: eventually finding a guilt-free medium between what we desire and what society expects will be better than oral sex.

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PHOTO EDITOR

The Gateway has re-opened hiring for the position of Photo Editor for the 2006/2007 publishing year (September 2006 to April 2007). Interested parties are encouraged to contact Matt Fehner, incoming Editor-in-Chief, at photo@gateway.ualberta.ca or 492-6648.

CIRCULATION PALS

The Gateway is hiring two Circulation Public Affairs Liaisons (PALs) to deliver the Gateway during the 2006/2007 publishing year (September 2006 to April 2007). The successful applicant will be a reliable U of A undergraduate student able to produce a clean driver's abstract and available to work Tuesday and Thursday mornings and early afternoons. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

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THE GATEWAY

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Punishing parents won't fix deeper flaws in our educational system

Enticements, bribes and jail sentences wrong approach to students' truancy



KATHARINE HAY

It's tough being a single mother working two jobs to make ends meet these days. Forget worrying about food and clothes: worry about being thrown in the slammer if your teenaged boys are habitually truant.

In Rockville, Maryland, Shirley Lumbao was jailed because her two sons were truant for 50 days each in the last school year alone. The school district claimed to have done all that they could—setting up interventions and counselling—and finally the state attorney gave notice that Ms Lumbao would be put in jail if her sons didn't attend school. People from Rockville were, according to NBC news, shocked to learn about the high rate of absenteeism displayed by these two youths—and, in light of that, thought sentencing the mother for her sons' crimes was necessary.

Jeffery Wenner, the assistant state's attorney, was quoted as saying, "I thought that the message had to be sent to her and to her kids who were in the courtroom." Ironically, court was in session during time that the Lumbao children should have been in school.

The Lumbao case brings the question: whose fault is it? The school dis-

trict and Ms Lumbao both say they did everything that they could. The school even bought the family alarm clocks, and bribed the boys with movie tickets and other "enticements." The jail sentence itself wasn't considered until all other strategies had been exhausted.

People from Rockville were ...shocked to learn about the high rate of absenteeism displayed by these two youths—and, in light of that, thought sentencing the mother for her sons' crimes was necessary.

The problem with negotiating this way is the notion of having to bribe the boys at all. When 13- and 15-year-old boys aren't going to school, there's a reason for it. Movie tickets and free alarm clocks, especially when the school was actually visible from their house, weren't going to change these circumstances. This, I think, is where a reason for it. In both the United States and Canada, fail.

I'm not trying to bash teachers, but rather the lack of resources available to support young children who weren't born with silver spoons in hand. One teacher alone will simply not have the

resources—or, sometimes, the experience—to keep children in school, and away from other, perhaps more enticing, ways of passing time.

Smaller class sizes, for which teachers all across Canada have petitioned, lobbied and gone on strike, could help to make a difference. In addition, while every high school, and many elementary and middle schools, have academic counsellors available, there's a lack of trained professionals—be they counsellors or social workers—to help keep intelligent children from abandoning the system out of frustration.

In addition to this support network of counsellors and teachers, administration changes in how information is given to students may be in order. Nurturing children's, especially young children's, creativity with group projects and more "fun" ways of learning would be far better than simple rote memorization, and the spelling tests of yore. In the later years in high school, especially after children turn 16 and school is no longer mandatory, this type of creativity will become critical, and probably make or break whether or not the child will graduate from high school, and perhaps go on to postsecondary.

After the education system failed her and her children, it is evident that Ms Lumbao shouldn't have been jailed for their misdemeanours. This case, and others like it, should be taken as a reflection of how the education system can reject those marginalized children who most need it. Now, all we need is change.

gateway student journalism society
PRESENTS

GSJS Special General Meeting
Thursday, 6 April, 2006 at 6pm
Students' Union Building (Room TBA)

All members of the Society are encouraged to attend.

The purpose of meeting is for the election of volunteer representatives to the Society's 2006/2007 Board of Directors.

Society Members are those with five contributions in the 365 days prior to the meeting who have opted-in with a Gateway editor. If you have five contributions in the 365 days prior to the meeting but have not opted-in, you may do so at the meeting.

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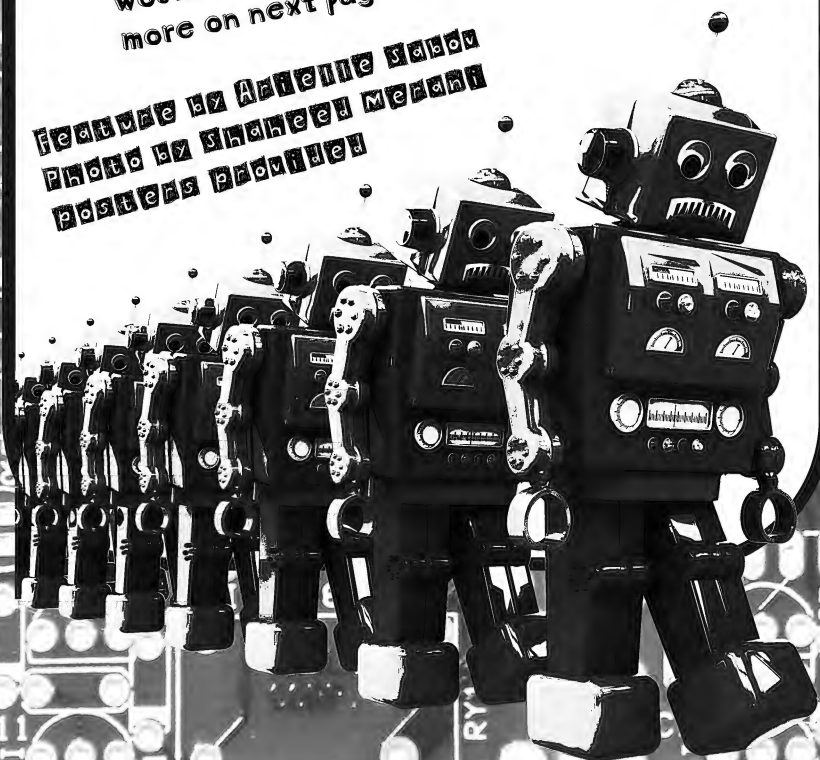
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www.afns.ualberta.ca/openingdoors

Playing this Saturday

Concentrating their efforts on smaller bands and more intimate venues, these local concert promoters are exposing music fans around the city to live acts beyond the top 40 rotation. Not content with bringing the same redundant acts to Red's or Rexall Place, they are listening to what music fans want and are willing to cater to the smallest and coolest musical niches. Think of them as your musical fairy godparents; without them, most Edmontonians would be stuck in a pop-punk purgatory. Read more on next page.

Feature by Arielle Yabov
Photo by Shaheed Merani
Posters provided



Maybe to you, Edmonton resembles a giant, sleepy town, a place with nothing much to do other than pillage West Edmonton Mall. The truth, though, is that there's more to do around here than you think. Even just walking down Whyte Ave, there's plenty to do, from the flashy stores to gawking at the kids with the self-studded jackets and a chain attaching their earring to their nose ring. What you might not notice, however, are those inconspicuous poster poles that frequent every block or so. If you were to take a closer look, these columns actually hold a plethora of valuable information—dance lessons, trips to Cancun, Saturday night bar specials and most curiously of all, concerts. I'm not talking about the type of concerts that cost \$120 dollars to get a mediocre seat behind a pillar in a giant coliseum, but local shows, with local bands, run by local promoters, who may have even graduated high school the same year as you.

Kristin Cheung, Jon Weizman, John Kennedy, Eli Klein. These names you may not recognize, but you've more than likely seen one of their posters floating around. These promoters, all between the ages of 20 and 25, are just a few of the current people providing Edmonton with the means to showcase the octaves of our city's musical talent. The four had all started out the same way, by helping a friend, but thanks to the spirit of DIY, they've made a name for themselves—each can now boast their own promotions company. Here's the story of four people are working hard to make sure you'll have somewhere to go once the Mall closes down.

If there's one word that sums up Kristin Cheung, it's creativity. Already working on her second mixtape exchange party, her imagination knows no bounds. Along with things like printing up cloth handbills for her joint show with U of A Women's Law Forum, Kristin is also known for her talent in finding rooms that otherwise would not be used as venues—all that, and she's only been promoting for the past year.

"The hardest part about getting started was probably the financial aspect of it," she explains of her beginnings. "When I first started I wasn't working, so I just used the money that I had saved up for schooling."

It's definitely been money well-spent. Since establishing her promotions company, Vanity, she has hosted such acts as Sonic Bands of the Month, The Mark Birtles Project and Whitey Houston, and Our Mercury, recent cover boys on both *SEE Magazine* and *Vue Weekly*, just to name a few.

"The best thing," says Kristin, "is probably booking bands that you like, that you personally really like, and putting on a show just to watch them for yourself; there are so many good local bands that never play shows and you get to handpick which ones [you want], put it together, and watch it for yourself. And if people like it, they like it, but it's more important that you like it." That's the principle that Kristin promotes with. She wouldn't put on a show that she wouldn't like.

As for being the only female promoter on this list, Cheung doesn't feel that this aspect hinders her at all. "I don't think it's harder," she says. "It might be even easier because—well, maybe because I'm a female and they look at girls in a nicer way? I'm not rude, I don't drink, I don't swear at people, so it's easier to connect, I guess, people who book venues because I'm more polite and stuff."

"And I remember cleaning up Queen Alex Hall once for a show in August and the hall-rental lady was like, 'Yeah, you did a really good job; it's always the boys who make the mess and don't clean up properly,'" she adds with a laugh.

Kristin Cheung

"The scene here is good in that the people in it really care about each other. We used to book shows at this place called Sweet Rocks, which was this, like huge house down on 116th street, just north of Jasper. It was just basically this big house where we used to do shows upstairs in the attic and it only held about 40 or 50 people. We did a show there the day that the smoking bylaw came into effect, so our all-ages show suddenly had to become no minors. There was a ton of kids outside all wanting to get in and so we were at the door and Jordan Wodehouse, from Compromise—he's a big guy, probably about 6'3", 250 pounds—came up to the door and he had this huge trench coat on that was, like, wrapped around him, and I could see out the bottom that there were four sets of legs coming out the bottom of this thing. He was just, like, shuffling kids in under his jacket into the show because he didn't want them to miss it. We didn't say anything, and the bar manager didn't see these kids, but basically he just looked fucking obese bringing kids three at a time under his jacket and these little feet shuffling. It was really cute."

Eli Klein laughs, and calls that one of his favourite memories of his past shows. For the past eight years, Eli has been promoting in Edmonton under various headings. Formerly of Black Dot, he's now working for Union Events based out of downtown Edmonton. Klein also promotes under the name of esqjr. While esqjr only promote for local and smaller acts, the Union handles such acts as Opeith, Philosopher Kings, Rise Against, NIN and Metric, just to name a few. The Union consists of six people between two cities, doing shows in six cities across Western Canada. Their mandate is to support travelling bands who do it for the love of the music and support them in their own DIY fashion.

Both as part of Union and personally, Eli strongly supports Edmonton's local music scene, so much so he'll often take on shows with his independent company that he knows won't break even on.

"I won't turn something down flat out because it won't make me any money. I've taken shows I've lost a hundred bucks on and I'm okay with that. I'm okay with supporting someone who I really love and their music."

Jon Weizman has what one might call jam hands. If you've ever met one of those kids who has to get into absolutely everything, that's Jon. "I always feel the need to be a part of something," he explains. "I can't just sit around and do nothing; I have to be a part of it. And just going to shows wasn't enough; I wanted to be putting them on, so that's why I started doing it."

Not only does Jon put these shows on, he's also his own sound technician, with his own collection of equipment he's begun to acquire. Even though he never received formal training in using a sound system, he was fortunate enough to work under professionals.

"For about six years of my life, I used to volunteer at a church," Weizman explains. "I used to be a part of their tech team and their sound team. We put on a lot of mini events so I was taught a lot of different things, and how I could do things like put on a show."

Weizman has had a large impact on the local scene in more ways than one, too. For one, when he founded his current promotions company, Starling Promotions, he also took an apprentice. "I talked to some other kids about setting up a promotions company—some younger kids who I felt wanted to be involved in their music scene but there's no way possible they'd ever be able to book a show because they can't rent the hall." John hooked up with Stevey Gallant, who has been working with him since September. For John, it's people like Stevey who will be the future of Edmonton's music scene, and he wants them to get involved in any way they can.

"Local" also has a little bit of a broader definition when it comes to the geography of Starling shows. Weizman has also been known to put on concerts in towns like Beaumont, Vegreville, and Drayton Valley.

"There are all these small towns which don't have a local scene at all, but they'd love to have the music played out there and they don't have a chance to hear it unless someone [puts the shows on]." This isn't always easy for Weizman to pull off, but it's a definite mark of a person who truly cares about the availability of music to people. "The con of out-of-town shows, I guess, is that they're far. And it's a long drive. Especially if your car is falling apart."

Jon Weizman

On that note, he gives the same advice to promoters who are relatively newer in the business. "For every loss, there's a gain," he explains. "If you're an independent promoter and you take a \$200, \$300, \$1500 hit on a show—which is what I've had happen in the past—you basically just swallow it. You can cry about it and smash your shit and do whatever you want, but there's always another show."

In addition to lending his talents to putting on shows, this promoter is also an experienced DJ. Just recently, Eli finished a two-year stint running Sunday nights at the Sugar Bowl, and currently continues to host his own show on CJSR. Between promotion and DJing, Eli wouldn't be able to pick his favourite. "[It's] two sides of the same coin. I really like the idea of being a 'tastemaker' ... It's just about exposing people to new music, and that's what I like. I like seeing the look on people's faces when they hear something that they love for the first time and they're like, 'This is fucking amazing!' and I'd be like, 'I know! That's why I showed you! Because you'd think it's amazing!'"

On the same note, that would probably be his favourite part of putting on local shows. "I've had shows when kids will literally walk off the street. And they're not 'identifiable' by any, like, patches or jackets or hairstyles or whatever; they're just kids who are walking around, bored, in their neighbourhood, see a show, and are like 'Whoa. This exists? Like, live music exists in these halls and I can come?'"

Klein, however, is not the only one who thinks there's something valuable going down in Edmonton's music scene; we've also captured national attention, with an enthusiastic article in the *Globe and Mail*, an article that Eli agrees with.

"If the *Globe and Mail* has enough attention span to turn to Edmonton of all places and not Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, or Halifax or whatever, and say that there's something going on here that's worth reporting on a national level, that's huge."

Eli Klein



If Edmonton's music scene was a giant playground, John Kennedy would be king of the castle. Better known as JFK ("John Fucking Kennedy") around the scene, John is one of the most energetic people you could ever meet, as evidenced by the fact that he seems to know absolutely everyone.

Walking around almost any show, you're bound to hear something about this guy from at least one person. To put it bluntly, JFK is the guy that everyone talks shit about. If there's something going down at a show, JFK is the name you're going to hear. It's also funny because most of the people you'll hear it from probably haven't said more than two words to the guy.

As a promoter, Kennedy's been around the scene for the past five years. Currently he promotes with the Edmonton Hardcore promotions company "Hold It Down" (HID), a more recent phenomenon with regard to Edmonton's hardcore music scene.

"I promote with a collective of hardcore kids: it's just like every kid who wants to be involved basically can be involved, because it's not one person's scene, it's everybody's scene."

This would be the general consensus amongst those who frequent hardcore concerts, especially considering the rap this scene takes compared to any of the others. Like any scene, but perhaps to a further extent, the intensity of hardcore can be mistaken for something that it's not. Hardcore kids know that they have to stick together to maintain the quality of shows that has come to be established, and they all would agree with Kennedy when he says, "There's no energy like the energy at a hardcore show."

When it comes to JFK's mandate, it's all about the atmosphere created. Small halls would be this promoter's venue of choice. "I would way rather see a band in a hall than in a club, because there's a lot of energy and it's a more personal show," he explains. "[In a club], they put a 750-foot barricade in front of you and you're not allowed to stage dive, not allowed to mosh, not allowed to do what kids should be allowed to do at shows. Any kid who has the balls to jump off the stage isn't going to be a kid who's going to go press charges if he breaks his neck. Any kid who has the balls to do that loves the band."

Like any other promoter, however, Kennedy realizes that hosting a show is not all fun and games. There are halls to book, bands to contact and things that just plain need to get done. JFK does all this, and with a wicked ethic to boot.

"No matter how good you are, or whether you think you do the best job ever, you can't always please everyone," John explains. "There are always going to be people who hate on you and people who don't agree with what you're doing. Those are the people who it sucks dealing with, but those are the people who fuel my fire. Those are the people who encourage me to be like, 'Fuck what all these people think. I don't care; I'm going to do my own thing.'"

Despite doing his "own thing," John Kennedy has more recently realized the need to join HID as a promoter. In addition to all the shows he's produced on his own, in the past three years he's also contributed musically to our city as a part of his band E-Town Beatdown. This busy man explains, "[Hold It Down] was created so that hardcore shows can keep happening, so the scene can still flourish. Many bands from the States are willing to come up, but just need the guarantees for shows when they get here. HID helps them get those dates."

John Kennedy

Mahogany Frogs thrive on prog-rock and confused fans

MahoganyFrog

with Ben Sinister and Pressure Kill Common Style
Friday, 24 March at 8pm
The Velvet Underground

Entertainment Editor

It's not an especially difficult task to start a post-high-school band: get a guitar, find a garage, learn three chords and you're off to the races. Slightly harder, however, is to make a viable offering of an experimental, instrumental, prog-rock inspired creation, blasting songs rife with long solos and lyric-free tracks. For Mahogany Frog, this is their MO, and touring to support their latest offering, this year's *Mahogany Frog on Blue*, it seems they've managed to master the art of marketing an undeniably obscure sound.

"We started off playing the loudest, weirdest, most psychedelic stuff we could," says Jesse Warkentin, who along with Graham Epp, Scott Ellenberger and Jean Paul Perron make up the Winnipeg-based instrumental rock band. "I guess we were all into progressive rock before it got so bad, and we all got into jazz and jazz-rock fusion. That was kind of an epiphany, where we just realized that this is what we wanted to play."

The first inkling of this post-prog-rock four-piece appeared in 1998, when high-school friends Warkentin and Epp first started making sounds and playing gigs around Saskatchewan. Their music uses the same standard basics—a solid beat, guitars and piano—and uses the means of synthesizers, a brass section and tape loops to produce complex and spacey arrange-

ments that run from atmospheric to orchestral.

Even with their unique sound, however, the lack of lyrics in their pieces makes for an unusual bar act and an interesting listening experience. According to Warkentin, however, the impact of their music doesn't lie in a specific message, but in the musical performance itself.

"A lot of our music is based on a concept of a song," explains Warkentin. "We're kind of going for a feel more than anything, aiming to challenge people's understanding of music. Like, we might use the bass as a sort of melodic solo section while we take the low end for a while on the keyboard, just to mix up and distort the traditional roles of musicians. We try to play as loud as we can to drill these things in and to make them as intense as we can."

And the drilling seems to have worked, at least so much as to allow the group to tour through Canada with relative ease. Having opened for the likes of Moeen, Projektor and The Junior Panthers, Mahogany Frog has managed to use their intense onstage showmanship and wild clash of sounds to draw in listeners. And if their music isn't enough to convince skeptical bar owners, the prospect of a one-night increase in sales might just push them off the fence.

"If you're a metal band, you can call up a metal club and there might be better chance of booking a show, but if you're playing anything experimental, owners are worried that they can't make money off it. But if we do score a gig at a bar, it makes people drink a whole bunch because they're just sitting there scratching their heads at our music and drinking beer. It's gotten a lot easier now because we have a big catalogue of Canadian bars that we can phone up at any time."



In a dystopian future, desperate times call for *V for Vendetta*



V for Vendetta

Directed by James McTeigue
Starring Natalie Portman, Hugo Weaving, John Hurt and Stephen Fry
Now Playing

Editor-in-Chief

As the security crews pass their metal detecting wands over our persons, they wave us into the theatre with a glower. We pass through the double thick doors only to be called back by an authoritative yell.

"You can't take that in with you. No food inside!"

"But it's empty."

"It doesn't matter. Dispose of it first!"

After discarding of the errant pop bottle, we sulk down our seats, trying to sneak food as the errant eyes and ears of the theatre stalk down the aisles. Brother Edmon hides his tater tots behind a newspaper, while Phil is unfortunately more blatant with his consumption of an apple. He's busted, and has to remove himself while he finishes. Luckily, I have time to hide my cookie before they do the same to me. As the lights go down, I throw my cookie wrapper on the ground, not as an act of littering, but as an act of defiance to all who would think to crush my liberty!

Or at least that's how the events felt after I finished watching *V for Vendetta*, the new movie based on Alan Moore's seminal graphic novel from the early '80s. *V* is set in a near-future dystopia where biological terrorism has created a social mood so fearful that the people of Britain have voted a fascist government into power. And, much like Hitler, that government decided to take away most civil rights. In marches *V*, a mysterious terrorist who unleashes his mad genius in a war of ideas against the fascist regime. Which, of course, in a post-11 September world—and more specifically, a post London Underground bombing world—is shocking to see in a mainstream movie. *V* doesn't go into the reasoning and/or flawed logic behind what leads up to horrible acts

of terrorism like films such as *Paradise Now*; *V* is terrorism as super heroics, terrorism as a slick marketing campaign, terrorism as punk rock.

When you get down to it, the ideas and ideologies presented by *V* are difficult to pinpoint. Does the film really propose to tear down all forms of government and have the world exist in a state of blissful anarchy? Well, maybe. We don't quite get to the point where we see what *V*'s post-government world looks like. But that doesn't matter. *V* is rebellion like the Sex Pistols were rebellion, a lot of noise and fury signifying not much at all beyond the sheer joy of the freedom to give someone the finger.

Much has been made of the fact that Alan Moore had his name removed from the film, but that probably has more to do with Moore's disposition about any film being made of his comic book work, which he considers "unfilmable," and a personal dislike of producer Joel Silver, than any specific problem with the film. Yes, some of the superficial details are different, such as the nature of the attack that leads to fascist Britain, but overall, the translation was a good one. Although some ideological and narrative coherence was lost to increase accessibility and to fit running time, much of the spirit of the work remains intact. It's still about fascism versus anarchy, and *V* is still very much a hero fighting to destroy the government as a twisted act of revenge. In fact, the film almost works better because of its increased accessibility, as it fits into the idea of rebellion only working as a mass movement, something that needs to hit a boiling point before being effective, something motivated by daring marketing—such as the kind *V* performs when he takes over every television in England or sends every citizen a mask like his own. The lack of definite ideas and ideals in the film pale beside the raw emotion of rebellion, and in the end the ideas seem almost redundant.

Perhaps that's what makes the movie effective; it isn't about ideas so much as it's about stirring up ideas, something that any audience member, whatever their personal ideology, can identify with. Or maybe it's just about sticking it to the goddamn cookie-stealing man.

Jubilee's *La Bohème* a bohemian rhapsody

La Bohème

Directed by Brian Deedrick
Starring Nathan Berg, Marc Hervieux,
Alain Coulombe, Todd Delaney,
Christopher Ryan, Sally Dibblee and
Kathleen Brett
21 and 23 March
Jubilee Auditorium

Arts & Entertainment Writer

If you're planning on breaking into the opera scene—at least as an audience member—*La Bohème* just might be the way for you to go. Sure, it's easy sitting at home and watching some Thursday night programming, but with a little extra effort you could be catching the live, onstage equivalent. *La Bohème*, now playing at the Jubilee, has even more drama than the average episode of *The OC*: hook-ups, fighting lovers, heartbreak and even a tragic ending.

The plot focuses on two young bohemian lovers living in poverty in 1830s Paris. Rodolfo (Marc Hervieux), a writer, and Mimì (Sally Dibblee), a lonely seamstress, live separately in the same building and are brought together when Mimì needs her candle lit. Their brief encounter leads to a passionate romance, and despite their humble livings, they're still a happy couple. However, their relationship takes a tragic turn when Mimì falls ill, leading Rodolfo through emotional turmoil, unable to help Mimì with his meager income. If you're familiar with the musical *Rent*, this is the original show it's based on, but in very loud Italian.

However, while the plot could have been something out of the realm of Thursday night teen melodramas, there was one major separation: the actors, or rather vocalists, had enough talent to have Mischa Barton permanently kicked off her set. Sally Dibblee delivers an outstanding performance, bringing the fragile and sad Mimì to life with her beautiful and powerful voice. The best part of her performance comes at the end of



LA VIE BOHÈME C'EST MAGNIFIQUE! They might not look it, but the leading couple of *La Bohème* is tragically in love.

the opera when she tells Rodolfo of her intense love for him. Every note is full of heartbreak, and it is very noticeably brought tears to several audience members' eyes. Dibblee's performance, and her ability to draw viewers into the story, makes the evening the more enjoyable.

As if talent and beautiful music aren't enough, the spectacle of *La Bohème* alone holds the attention of the audience. The sets are fantastic creations that form a perfect bohemian world while not standing out on their own as representations. Set designer Bretta Gerecke brought the story to life through her beautifully

detailed compositions, the height of which was a city street with gigantic stone walkways and a fully lit, glass-domed café.

To accompany the sets, the lighting is especially acute in acts one and four, with realistic moonlight and shadows that peeped through the windows of Rodolfo and Mimì's rundown flat. The overall effect of Gerecke's work is easily the backbone of *La Bohème*'s success, and this behind-the-scenes artist deserves a large share of the opera's praise.

The only point of objection might have been to the English translations that are projected above the set. Assistance,

for sure, as the opera is entirely in Italian, but the production itself often carries enough emotion and meaning through the vocals and movements that the slightly distracting projections are completely unnecessary. In many ways the opera is something that can be appreciated beyond the literal meaning of the words, with the music and the emotion it contains projecting most of the message.

La Bohème is beautiful and dramatic, and while it may take a bit more effort than flicking on Thursday-night TV, *La Bohème* kicks the teen-angst out of *The OC* any day of the week.



The Old Soul
The Old Soul
Hand of God Records
www.theoldsoul.com

Arts & Entertainment Staff

You'd think that since The Old Soul have the audacity to invoke the name of an entire musical genre in the name of their band, they would at least play that very variety of music. Or, at the very least, not suck. Unfortunately, The Old Soul—the band, that is—meets neither of these criteria, offering up instead a curious shit-mix of irreconcilable musical stylings.

Classic southern sounds, such as Mexican horns, New Orleans zydeco and rag-time "plani," are all featured prominently, but are juxtaposed with modern instruments such as keyboards and synthesizers, as well as obsolete oddities such as the harpsichord. The result: a carnival-esque concatenation of Frank Zappa and Sufjan Stevens, with a little bit of Handel thrown into the mix.

Nowhere is The Old Soul's curious musical make-up and eccentric energy exemplified better than on the unfortunately entitled "Fuck It," a bizarre jam featuring most all of the aforementioned instruments and which exhausts itself in its playful exuberance in under two minutes.

The highlight of the album is the final crescendo-combination of "Shotgun Wedding" and "And A Mexican Divorce," a double-whammy of dreamy, drunken party dregs that perfectly sum up the album in all its weirdness.

Lest you think that The Old Soul's music can't get any weirder, the liner notes reassure us that "next time around we will be even more retarded." I, for one, will have to take their word for it.



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Teen flick *She's the Man* barely avoids hitting the fan

She's the Man

Directed by Andy Fickman
Starring Amanda Bynes, Channing Tatum and Laura Ramsey
Now Playing

Terrible-Movie Reviewers

Iris: Coming fresh off seeing *These Girls* last week, both Scott and I didn't have high hopes for *She's the Man*. This could be because we both took *Twelfth Night* (the basis for the film) in the same drama class, but regardless, we were unimpressed by the premise of this modern-day teenage adaptation. Not helping matters, the male lead, Channing Tatum, is likely more famous for his previous day job as an underwear model.

Anyway, it seems to me that the last time this type of Shakespearean adaptation worked was in *10 Things I Hate About You*, when Heath Ledger was still far from being an Oscar nominated gay cowboy.

Scott: I was pretty outspoken with my distaste for this movie. As a whole, I find these teen-love movies particularly sleep inducing and formulaic. Plus, during the late '90s, there was a fad with remaking Shakespeare's plays in to these kinds of sappy teenage romances. *10 Things I Hate About You* and that *Romeo + Juliet* with DiCaprio represent these sub-genre perfectly: they both start—the theatrical equivalent of digging up the Bard and giving his corpse a healthy boot-fucking. And finally, this film featured soccer as one of its major plot points. Three strikes and I was ready to count this one out.

But, while this is not exactly a shining endorsement, I will say this: *She's the Man* isn't horrible. By no means is it a cinematic masterpiece, but, like *Iris*, I had very low expectations for this film. And it marginally surpassed them.

Iris: This may be an unintentional trend, but it seems all teenage Shakespearean remakes have to be centered on some sporting team. Just like how *Kat* is a soccer player in *10 Things I Hate About You* and *Odin/Othello* is a basketball star in *O, Viola* (Amanda Bynes) is a soccer nut in *She's the Man*. The cross-dressing situational tomfoolery is kick-started when Viola's soccer team is cut from the school program. Conveniently, her twin brother Sebastian (James Kirk) has decided to ditch school to explore the music scene in London, thus providing the perfect opportunity for Viola to impersonate him at his new school, Illyria Prep, try out for their soccer team and show her chauvinistic goalie ex-boyfriend what after-school specials have been teaching us all along: girls can play on the boy's team.

Scott: With such a foolproof plan, nothing can go wrong. That is, until Viola starts to fall for her teammate and roommate, Duke (Channing Tatum, the underwear model). Unfortunately, Duke starts to see Viola/Sebastian as a close confidante in his quest to win the much-sought after Olivia (Laura Ramsey). But, of course, Olivia wants nothing to do with Duke. Instead having her heart set on—wait for it—Viola, who she thinks to be 100 per cent, FDA-certified male. Let the gender-bending hijinx begin.



Iris: Just because we liked it, it doesn't mean the formulaic pitfalls of most teenage movie were avoided. It's just that they're not nearly as annoying, since the writers are obviously not taking the movie too seriously, and the stereotypes are hilariously over-the-top. There's the requisite asshole boyfriend and high-maintenance girlfriend, jokes based on feminine hygiene products, debutante ball, sensitive man who can bench press 240, the makeover mon-

stage with wacky moustaches and a soccer coach with a stone-cold exterior but a heart of gold. Bynes is no master thespian, but her goofy awkwardness worked in the context of the movie. Occasional scenes of David Cross as the principal further enhanced the film.

Scott: Yes, credit is definitely due to three minor characters that, I think, stole the show. Cross as the unstable Headmaster, Vinnie Jones as the psy-

chotic soccer coach and Canadian Emily Perkins as the creepy, sex-obsessed girl with the massive braces all gave performances worthy of larger roles. They turned a wholly forgettable movie with three very entertaining bit parts.

Even with these small gems, though, I have to doubt that *She's the Man* would win old Willy's approval, but at the same time, I don't expect him to be turning in his grave over it, either.

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The Smashup
Being and Becoming
Warcon Enterprises
www.theshmashup.com

Arts & Entertainment Staff

Mediocrity can, on occasion, be worse for a band than just being downright terrible. Terrible can be remedied with practice and experience, but being average is a difficult boundary to overcome, and this puts a damper on The Smashup's debut album, *Being and Becoming*.

The New-York based punk-metal band shows glimpses of talent here, but it all gets bogged down with trite song-writing and lyrics consistent with the most derivative emo possible. When singer Watt White yells lines like "Set the house aflame - dismember the corpses... I'll do the least to hurt the most," you can just picture legions of black-eye-linered, parent-hating 14-year-olds bouncing frantically.

Unfortunately, the singer pouring out his soul overshadows the rest of the band, which is decent enough most of the time and does come up with a few good guitar riffs every so often. I can only hope that they toss their singer and get someone who can write lyrics, but until then, there's nothing particularly noteworthy here, and certainly not enough for a recommendation.



Onlyforward
Everything's Perfect
Kindling Music
www.onlyforward.com

Arts & Entertainment Staff

As can be told by the title, *Onlyforward's* debut album, *Everything's Perfect*, is optimistic. The Canadian folk band strikes an uplifting note on this disc, and while the music has a singer-songwriter feeling, the band mixes this with a bit of straightforward rock and some experimental sounds to create a fairly diverse disc.

The group manages to pull off a Radiohead-like impression on the wailing "Promises, Promises," while on "Last Drop" they seem to have just come from a Great Big Sea convention. *Onlyforward* is also not afraid to mention their faith, which unfortunately has gotten them railroaded into the "Christian Rock" category, despite their lyrics being fairly subtle and dealing with such positive and somewhat religion-neutral topics such as being a good person and helping others.

Since a number of boy's folk-rock bands and singers are now reaching retirement age, it's good to see that there are some talented young bands like *Onlyforward* stepping up to fill the ranks.



Adair
The Destruction of Everything is the Beginning of Something New
Warcon Records
www.adairmusic.com

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Adair, with side-swept bangs and mosh hairs in hand, initially seem to offer nothing new to an already over-saturated genre with their album *The Destruction of Everything is the Beginning of Something New*. Halfway through the third track, however, the album becomes suddenly interesting: the vocals get rough and the band starts sounding like credible post-hardcore.

Unfortunately, the enjoyment fades much too quickly. Heeting are the power screams and the tortured-soul feel, and all too soon Adair leaves us again with the mediocre, milkily injured soul of lead singer Rob Tweedie and his whining vocals. Dull, easy-listening instrumentals complement the annoyingly monotone voice, highlighting lyrics that could supply a "misunderstood" high school girl with an entire month of MSN display names.

Comparable to any high school Battle of the Bands contestant, *The Destruction of Everything* is a horrible album, cut by yet another hackneyed boy band with blonde streaks in their hair.



Jack Johnson and Friends
Sing-A-Longs and Lullabies for the Film Curious George
Brushfire Records
www.jackjohnson.com

Arts & Entertainment Staff

The soundtrack to *Curious George* is, appropriately, full of children's music. So much so, in fact, that splashing singer-songwriter Jack Johnson's name on the cover is a bit of a misnomer. The lyrics lack complexity and the usual smooth flair of Johnson's songwriting, but to take the CD in context, this is a soundtrack for a children's movie, and definitely not a Jack Johnson album.

The subtitle *Sing-A-Longs and Lullabies for the Film* is literal, and the CD comes with a booklet full of the lyrics for those inclined to sing along. The track listing includes 13 songs about sharing and making friends; pretty much a lesson in every song, exactly what one would

expect from *Curious George*, who always manages to learn a lesson in each wonderful book.

It's a fun disc, and a good hold-over for young ones—and I suppose those who are incredibly young at heart—until the *Curious George* DVD is released, but while it's set to fun guitar rhythms and a jazzy piano, this in no way make it cool for anyone over the age of twelve.

However, the *Curious George* soundtrack is a perfect gift for any children, nieces or nephews, one may have, and their parents won't hate you nearly as much as if had gotten them, say, a recording by the Doodlebops.

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SPORTS

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BACK ON THE NATIONAL STAGE Neither Montréal or Western will be here this year, but Acadia and McGill will be here in search of CIS gold. Men's hockey nationals get underway on Thursday. FILE PHOTO: JAMES LEUNG

Axemen to come out swinging | Redmen end nationals drought

ROSS PRIKSAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

Though they have been to five previous University Cups and captured a pair of them, the Acadia Axemen have spent the last seven years wandering in the wilderness of CIS hockey. However, after going from perennial contenders for a national title through the early- and mid-'90s to cellar-dwellers in their conference, the Axemen have rejoined the leaders of CIS hockey and enter this weekend's Telus University Cup ranked second in the nation.

While, for some, the high ranking might add extra pressure to what's an already stressful tournament, Acadia head coach Darren Burns isn't worried about how his team will respond to the ranking or the style of play from other teams in Edmonton.

"They're a pretty grounded group of guys, but they're excited to go out there and play for a national championship," said Burns. "When you get to this stage, I think everyone's style of play is pretty similar. It's fast, it's tough and it's hard-nosed, so we won't really be surprised, but we'll be prepared."

Despite their high ranking and the fact they won the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) conference title with a healthy 19-8-1 regular season record and impressive sweeps in play-off series victories over St. Mary's and UNB, Burns said he believed that his team will enter their first CIS tournament since 1997/98 as underdogs.

"I'm pretty sure we're an underdog, since we're coming from the smallest conference and will be the smallest school [at nationals]," he said. "We've been that way the last couple of years, even down here, so it's something we're used to and it's not a problem with us. We're in a tough conference and we know there are some outstanding teams out there."

It could be a long weekend for the Axemen, as they'll face two high-powered offenses in the University of Saskatchewan Huskies and Lakehead University Thunderbolts. Acadia wasn't exactly a slouch defensively this season, only allowing 69 goals in 28 games; however, their smaller defencemen could have their hands full with their opponents' offensive prowess. Their coach expects that it will be attributes other than defence and pure skill that will play a key role in how they fare at nationals.

"The strengths of our team are our intangibles, things like our work ethic, discipline and leadership—they're probably not things you're going to see on the ice," said Burns. "We're not a fancy team, we're not an overly skilled team. We just work hard."

While making a trek across the nation for the tournament could take a lot out of a team in itself, Burns and his team are refusing to acknowledge any of those issues—he insists that, when the puck drops, his team will only have the task at hand on their minds.

"Talking about travel, injuries and being an underdog are excuses, and I'm not into that," said Burns. "It doesn't matter where we play, you have to be ready to go, so we don't talk about injuries, and we don't talk about travel."

The Axemen still believe that they can grind out wins against their opponents this weekend, and that they can challenge for their school's third title. Even if they don't, though, Burns believes that just making it to nationals will benefit the program and make them a regular contender in the future.

"Just making [the University Cup] is huge for our program. Just two years ago, we weren't in the playoffs, and last year we had a good run and that helped us this year."

The Axemen will face off against Saskatchewan on Thursday at 1pm in the first game of the Telus University Cup at Clare Drake Arena.

TREVOR PHILLIPS
Sports Staff

There's such a thing as being fashionably late, and then there's the McGill Redmen hockey team.

The fourth-ranked team at this year's University Cup is the oldest hockey program in Canada, but oddly enough have never made an appearance at the national championship in their 129-year history.

However, don't expect the team to be content with just qualifying for their first shot at hockey national pride, according to Golden Bears head coach Eric Thurston, who will lead the Bears into battle with McGill win or lose, thanks to the tournament's setup.

"They can score. They beat Laurier 13-4 earlier this season and won two other games 7-0 and 8-0; they can score."

ERIC THURSTON
BEARS HOCKEY HEAD COACH
ON MCGILL'S HOCKEY TEAM

first time with a 20-1-3 record. Thurston, also in his first national championship as a head coach, stressed the importance of preparedness for both clubs to keep the focus on the games in this short, pressure-packed style of tournament.

"Anything can happen in these one-game scenarios. As a coach you have to be prepared, make sure of all the angles, go over it all and bring your A-game. Also, you're excited; it's a tremendous honour to be in this situation for the first time."

Fortunately for Raymond, he has the freedom of having a very solid, well-built and talented program that starts from the net out. In goal they have the OUA's Most Outstanding Player, Mathieu Poltras. The sensational sophomore lead his conference in save percentage at .947, picked up 14 wins and also broke the 24-year-old single-season shutout record with seven.

"They're a very quality program," said Thurston. "They have great goaltending and defence, and that's the backbone to any championship team."

On defence, the Redmen feature the top-scoring rearguard in the OUA in David Urquhart as well as two more OUA all-stars, in Albertan Shawn Shewchuck and scoring threat Doug Orr, the nephew of NHL Hall of Famer Bobby Orr.

For those unfamiliar with what to expect from McGill, hockey fans can look no further than the NHL's Calgary Flames. Much like the Flames, the Redmen boast a premier puck-stopper, a light's-out defensive core and excellent speed and scoring ability up front, in spite of their powerplay woes.

"They can score," warned Thurston. "They beat Laurier 13-4 earlier this season and won two other games 7-0 and 8-0; they can score."

McGill takes on the Wilfred Laurier Golden Hawks on Thursday at 7pm at Clare Drake Arena and, depending on whether they win or lose that game will play the Bears either Friday or Saturday at Clare Drake Arena.

UBC athletics cross-border shopping

CIS schools consider a move to the NCAA to help secure hometown recruits

BRIAN MCLENNON
The Other Press

NEW WESTMINSTER, BC (CUP)—The amount of cross-border shoppers between Canada and the United States have increased over the past years. These with fat wallets looking for great deals are not Canadians heading to Seattle's outlet malls, but American coaches from NCAA athletic institutions in search of our top athletes.

Every year, thousands of top prospects from across Canada are awarded handsome athletic scholarships to compete at universities and colleges south of the border. With over 4,000 postsecondary institutions, the US can offer a large amount of athletic scholarships in a wide variety of sports.

The most common athletic scholarships are awarded in basketball, football, and track and field. Just like a buffet, the choices of scholarships seem unlimited, as Canadian high school athletes can earn a debt-free education in everything from bowling to fencing and to even rifting.

However, the migration is no longer just affecting Canadian universities; it's now affecting the governing body for university sport in Canada. The 6 March issue of *Maclean's*, explored UBC's plan to reduce the amount of Canadian athletes from crossing the border to the US. In an "if you can't beat them, join them" attitude, UBC has already begun wooing the NCAA, the governing body for interuniversity athletics in the US, to consider having their Canadian cousins play on what is clearly the bigger stage for university athletics.

The governing body for interuniversity athletics in Canada is Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS). Their persistent stubbornness regarding athletic scholarships has resulted in many universities seeking answers to the question of funding athletes.

The topic of athletic scholarships in

Canada has been one of heated discussions for decades and has always created a divide between CIS member institutions. Some institutions believe there should be a balance between academics and athletics and that awarding athletic scholarships would upset this balance. Others claim that adopting the NCAA model would help ease the financial strain on student-athletes. The theory is that increasing athletic scholarships would help keep top athletes at home, thus improving the quality of competition throughout CIS.

Some institutions believe there should be a balance between academics and athletics and that awarding scholarships would upset this balance. Others claim that adopting the NCAA model would help ease the financial strain on student-athletes.

In support, Simon Fraser University (SFU) said that they would be willing to "defect" and join UBC should the opportunity present itself. SFU, which still has the majority of their athletic programs (cross country, golf, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, track and field, and wrestling) competing in the NCAA sister operation, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), has seen its share of successes and regrets with competing south of the border.

The SFU women's softball team was NAIA Champions in 2003, and the women's soccer team won it all in

2000. However, in 2001, SFU's basketball programs opted to withdraw their membership from the NAIA and join the growing Canada West conference of CIS. Increasing travel costs and an erratic schedule were cited as the main reasons for the controversial move. Some former SFU players regretted not being able to compete for a national championship due to a lack of a conference—a lost opportunity for a program that for years had one of the best men's basketball teams in Canada.

So how will UBC overcome these barriers to ensure survival at the big dance? According to recent reports, UBC's fundraising and athletic budget totals approximately \$4 million, which is comparable to many of the NCAA institutions that compete in the Pacific Northwest and California. UBC Athletic Director Bob Phillip has had a couple of visits from NCAA officials to prove to them that UBC could play with the higher levels of talent in the NCAA.

In recent exhibition basketball games against traditional powerhouse schools Georgia and Kansas State, UBC defeated both teams and has recently won as many as four games against NCAA Division I schools. Even against the Kansas Jayhawks, the Thunderbirds held their own for much of the game.

So what's the hold up? Well, for starters, the NCAA has been somewhat reluctant to open its borders to include non-American members. However, with two recent visits to UBC's Vancouver campus, it could mean that they are willing to change their views. In addition, there are several requirements for members who apply to the NCAA for membership, and officials need to ensure UBC can comply with these requirements.

The loss of a CIS program to the NCAA could be the beginnings of reformation in Canadian sport.

SFU overreacts on hazing suspensions



RAMINA
OSTIAD

Sports
Commentary

You don't have to be an athlete to know that peer pressure is a bitch—though, I guess it may be more severe for those people. No one secular category of peeps are more rooted in their traditions than sports teams, and the pressure to fit in can sometimes lead new members to do some questionable things.

Take the Simon Fraser University swim team, for example. A few weeks ago, almost every member of both the junior and senior teams was suspended from play for conduct that the University considered to be "hazing." What was this conduct? Well, I'm glad I assumed you asked. The "hazing" included each member describing detailed sexual fantasies about other members and taking suggestive photos wearing team uniforms. You homophobes need not worry—both male and female members took part. The University suspended all but three members of the team because this contravened the swim team's guidelines for "rookie rituals."

Now, I have a couple questions.

First, how do I join the SFU swim team? Because honestly, I'm pretty down for girls being forced to think of me sexually. Second, was this actually hazing? Don't get me wrong; I'm a firm believer that hazing is a cruel and unnecessary practice. However, none of the information released by SFU can suggest to me that any of this was involuntary. No one was reportedly hurt, and from what we've been told, no one was taken. None of the pictures that were taken were plastered all over campus or anything like that.

Now, I have a couple questions. First, how do I join the SFU swim team? Because honestly, I'm pretty down for girls being forced to think of me sexually. Second, was this actually hazing?

So why exactly were these teams suspended one week before defending their North American championships? All it sounds like to me is a pretty bitchin' party.

I'm not trying to marginalize the

gravity of hazing rituals, but quite frankly, there are much worse things that these kids could have done. When I was in ninth grade, my music class spent a week at a band camp that, at the time, was also being used by some high school music classes. About a week in, the tenth-graders convinced some of us youngsters to help participate in a "hazing ritual." The older kids convinced one of my friends to share his public hair oil, and in the middle of the night, tape it on an unsuspecting victim's face during their slumber. Suffice it to say, the victim was not a happy band-camper when he woke up, and a lot of the older kids got in trouble. It was a degrading stunt, and the poor guy never came back to music class.

However, all this swim team was doing was getting drunk and telling hormone-inducing stories. By reacting so strongly to this, SFU accomplishes nothing. I'm entirely confident that there are much worse things going on within other SFU teams that could be getting much more attention; and even if this was an attempt to prove the University's stance on hazing to the other teams, it's made trivial by how minor the swim team's indiscretions actually were. I mean, it's not like they behaved like, say, the McGill football team. Though I guess it's hard to sodomize a swimmer—I hear they do a lot of clenching.

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CBC goes Leaf-crazy instead of honouring Hab great

Network caters too much to Leafs fans; why so many Leafs fans in Canada?



ANDREW
RENFREE

Sports
Commentary

A couple of weeks ago, a tragedy occurred on *Hockey Night in Canada*. Surprisingly, it wasn't Don Cherry making racist comments about Francophones or Europeans, but rather something that the CBC failed to do. On 11 March, the CBC aired the Toronto Maple Leafs game against the Tampa Bay Lightning, instead of a ceremony in Montréal honouring Bernie "Boom Boom" Geoffrion, who passed away that same day of stomach cancer, and was having his number retired at the Bell Centre.

Western Canadians might feel that broadcasting any Leafs game is a tragedy, but overlooking the emotional ceremony honouring one of hockey's greats was just plain offensive. Geoffrion is often credited with introducing the slapshot to hockey, and totalled 759 points with Montréal, ninth in franchise history. He garnered six Stanley Cups with the Flying Frenchmen, and also went on to coach that storied franchise after his retirement. His achievements warranted his number five being raised to the rafters on 11 March, which had been planned since the beginning of the year. Geoffrion would not make it to his big night as he unfortunately passed away earlier that morning. His wife still attended the ceremony, a final request of her late husband, and

several other Montréal greats, including Dickie Moore and Henri Richard, were in attendance. The only notable absence was a CBC cameraman.

At some point, the CBC must have made a pact with the devil to always air the Leafs' games on Saturday evening, no matter what the circumstance, and in return Satan would ensure that Toronto would never win another Cup.

Apparently, the *Hockey Night in Canada* schedule is set in stone some time in the fall and the CBC isn't able to alter it when something more emotional, more meaningful, and frankly, more important comes along. Radio Canada, the French arm of CBC, broadcast the game, so it wouldn't have been too difficult to air the ceremony in English as well. Then CBC could have switched to the second and third periods of the Toronto/Tampa game if they had to. Or if that wasn't enough to shut Leafs fans up, CBC could have delayed the Toronto/Tampa game by 40 minutes to accommodate for the Geoffrion ceremony.

At some point, the CBC must have made a pact with the devil to always air the Leafs' games on Saturday evening, no matter what the circumstance,

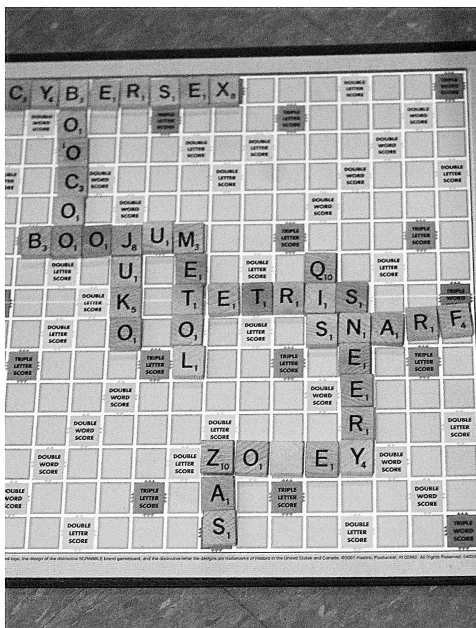
and in return Satan would ensure that Toronto would never win another Cup. Kidding aside, though, the CBC has a hard-on for the Leafs mostly because they have a large fan-base across the country. But this brings up an interesting question: why are the Leafs so popular anyway? If you're from Toronto, I can understand why you would cheer for the Leafs. I'm an Oilers fan because I was born here. But why do so many people outside of the cesspool known as TO root for such a hapless team? I can see why people who aren't from Detroit, Colorado or New Jersey cheer for those teams, because they've actually won a few cups in recent years, but the last time Toronto was crowned NHL king was 1967—when there were only five other teams competing for the prize! To put that in perspective, Neil Armstrong first walked on the moon two years after the Leafs last held Lord Stanley's Cup.

When I ask some "friends" of mine who are Leafs faithful, they tell me that they cheer for Toronto because they were an original team in the league. This is true, however, people forget that Montréal has been around longer—and unlike the Leafs, the Habs are actually a good hockey team. Montréal has won 23 Stanley Cups (compared to 13 for Toronto), with the most recent being in 1993. Not that I'm a Habs supporter per se, but it only makes sense that they would be more popular than their Ontarian rivals. At least Montréal could have been the focal point when they honoured the late Geoffrion. Heaven forbid the CBC annoy the billions of Leafs fans by interrupting their game for one of the greatest players to put on skates.

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Scrabbletime is gametime for competitors

DAVID KARP
The Martlet

VICTORIA (CUP)—For some people, Scrabble is just another rainy day board game. For 21-year-old James Leong, it's a passion. The UBC law student plays an average of ten games a week, and was crowned victor at the Vancouver Scrabble Tournament held from 4–5 March.

"I just play really fast," Leong said. "It's a mental rush that I like doing."

In the world of competitive Scrabble, players need to move fast—they only have 25 minutes to make all their moves for the entire game. They lose ten points for every minute they go over.

Then, there are all the bizarre words—there are over 120 000 permissible words in the National Scrabble Association's Official Word List. Updated this year, the tournament's bible includes words like qubyte (a sequence of eight quantum bits), gytjia (an organically rich mud), boocoo (an alternate spelling for the French beaucoup), and hryvnia (a monetary unit of the Ukraine).

Many of the top players spend heaps of time memorizing lists of words and letter combinations, but Leong has a more relaxed approach to keeping on top of new words: "You just read, you go around the world, you observe things."

"For example, now words like pakora are good. Pakora is Indian food. Or bento, a Japanese lunch," said the Scrabble champion, perhaps a little hungry after his win.

He also could have mentioned za (dang for pizza), lassi (a beverage of yogurt, water and flavouring), ancho (a chili pepper), papadum (a thin, crisp bread of India), or poutine.

"There's a lot of Internet stuff that's coming on, like blogging and bloggers and cybersex," Leong added, admitting he tried, but didn't have the goods to lay down cybersex. "I've gotten close, but not perfect."

In Scrabble, players can challenge a play if they think their opponent has used a phony word. If the word is not on the official word list, their opponent must take it off the board. They also lose a turn. But, if the word is legitimate, the person who put forth the challenge forfeits a turn.

Leong, a pianist, finds a similarity between

music and competitive Scrabble.

"You can hear in a lot of famous musicians—they make mistakes with their technique—but [music] is their soul, it's their energy," he said. "It's that kind of addiction they have to being entranced by it. I play piano like that too, and I have this for Scrabble too."

Before the tournament, Leong was ranked 146th in North America. If he continues his winning ways, however, he'll soon be climbing the rankings, keeping his focus on Dean Saldanha, the top-ranked player in British Columbia and 83rd on the continent.

Saldanha, a 23-year-old business student at Richmond's Kwantlen College, placed 18th at the World Scrabble Championship in November and was Canadian Champion in 2003.

"My parents, they started playing at home, and I would set up the board for them," he said. "I got tired of that, so I started playing. As long as I enjoy playing, I'll keep playing."

While Saldanha usually only plays two games a week, he does study wordlists to help boost his score.

"Every game is different," he said. "There can be similar games, but you can never have games that are exactly the same."

Unlike Leong, who plays over the Internet, Saldanha usually plays at home with his family. His mother, father and sisters are all competitive Scrabble players.

His youngest sister, Dielle, is ranked 161st in North America. A grade twelve student who plays Scrabble once a week, she hopes to someday pass her brother in the Scrabble rankings.

"I've only ever played him once in a tournament," she said. "I won."

Dielle won an award for the highest-scoring game in her division at the Vancouver tournament—she nailed a 547 score.

The siblings come by their Scrabble skills honestly. Their father, Norbert, who hails from the United Arab Emirates, was the Gulf Champion in 1991.

All competitive Scrabble players set their eyes on the International Scrabble Championships held every summer in the United States. The champion walks away with a \$25 000 US prize. Last year, Dave Wiegand, a mortgage underwriter from Portland, Oregon, went home with the money.

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